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scholar, who had inscribed upon them his exercises in grammar and dialectics: and from the words "*hoc trivium*," which occur on one of the pages, it would seem that the owner was engaged in learning or teaching the *trivium*, i. e. the first three of the seven liberal arts, in which the first Degree is still taken in our Universities.

The characters inscribed on these tables, as far as Dr. Todd was able to determine, were of the fifteenth century, if not earlier. He shewed that the use of waxed tablets continued to the seventeenth century, and that there was no foundation for the opinion maintained by a learned French Dominican, Père Alexandre, that the use of tablets of this kind ceased in the fifth century.

Dr. Todd concluded by proposing that the special thanks of the Academy be presented to Mr. Knox for this valuable donation to the Museum; and recommended that it be referred to the Council to have drawings of the tablets immediately made, lest they should receive injury from the ordinary heat of the room, or otherwise.

Professor Allman made some observations on the wood composing the tablets, which he submitted to microscopical examination.

The Rev. Humphrey Lloyd read the following paper by the Rev. Thomas Knox, on the quantity of Rain which fell with different winds, at Toomavara, during five years since 1827.

I beg leave to lay before the Royal Irish Academy the following results of the rain-gauge kept at River Glebe, Toomavara, for five consecutive years.

The amount of rain is given separately for the eight principal points of the wind; and the curves in the accompanying plates are formed (as mentioned in a former communication) by taking on each of the eight points, distances from the

centre respectively proportional to the amount of rain which had fallen when the wind was in that direction ; by then connecting these spaces a curve is formed, which shews at a glance the character of the rain for that particular period. The plates are only drawn for the mean results, which are the only ones of any importance. The period of five years is rather shorter for very accurate mean results than could have been wished, but absence from home after that period had elapsed put a stop to the observations.

There are one or two points to which I wish to draw attention. First of all, taking the average monthly rain at three inches, the first six months of the year are below the average, the other six months above it. *November* and *July* are by far the two wettest months in the year ; and in each the greatest amount is from S. W. *April* is much the driest month, and there is nearly as much rain in it from the northern portion of the compass as from the southern.

With regard to the gross amount which fell from each point in the entire year, that which fell from S. S. W. and W. is much above the average. From the other points it is below it.

There is a curious circumstance with regard to the curve of the entire year (Plate 6) : that if it be divided by a line running N. E. and S. W., then the rain on either side of this line is equal all but a fraction of an inch. This is the more remarkable, as these two points had been fixed on by Professor Dove, in his Paper on the Winds, as being the points of greatest and least barometric pressure. That is to say, the wind supposed at S. W., any shift of it, either towards S. or W. produces a rise of mercury ; and also any shift on either side of N. E., a corresponding fall.

Now in the rain the greatest amount is from S. W. (corresponding with the lowest state of mercury). The least is from N. E. (where the mercury is highest), and on either side of this line it varies regularly, as an inspection of the Plate

(No. 6) will shew. For instance the amounts from W. and S. are nearly equal, and both less than S. W.; N. E. and S. still less; N. and E. still decreasing; and N. E. the least of all. Whether this analogy between the barometric pressure and amount of rain is accidental or not remains to be proved.

The following table shews the numerical average of the rain. The detailed tables and curves will be published in the Transactions of the Academy.

YEARLY AVERAGE EACH POINT.		S.	S. W.	W.	N. W.	N.	N. E.	E.	S. E	Total.
		6.548	10.639	6.034	2.789	2.352	2.172	2.251	3.173	35.958
Average of each Month for each of the 8 Points during the five Years.	January.	.573	.721	.609	.171	.162	.096	.180	.306	2.911
	February	.655	.668	.397	.235	.136	.167	.175	.332	2.766
	March	.635	.814	.679	.277	.130	.064	.122	.237	2.957
	April	.175	.375	.404	.192	.200	.153	.088	.118	1.704
	May	.359	.595	.280	.110	.184	.289	.231	.290	2.359
	June	.613	1.236	.285	.074	.058	.181	.062	.189	2.699
	July	.517	1.148	.568	.448	.398	.281	.242	.110	3.712
	August	.588	1.440	.408	.262	.242	.187	.147	.152	3.427
	Septem.	.711	1.020	.597	.229	.237	.157	.058	.304	3.313
	October.	.387	.797	.651	.269	.412	.206	.117	.195	3.033
	November	.629	.856	.556	.283	.165	.234	.550	.550	3.844
	December	.706	.969	.500	.139	.038	.157	.229	.390	3.228
Monthly Mean during each Season for 5 yrs.	Winter	.645	.786	.535	.215	.112	.140	.195	.343	2.911
	Spring	.390	.595	.454	.193	.171	.169	.154	.215	2.341
	Summer	.573	1.275	.420	.261	.233	.216	.150	.150	3.278
	Autumn	.576	.891	.601	.260	.268	.199	.352	.350	3.397
Average for five years, total of <div>Winter . Spring . Summer . Autumn</div>										8.912 7.020 9.836 10.190
Average Year										35.958

found ; but by this mode of collecting the rain, an accurate mode of estimating this is within our reach.

To this branch, namely, an examination of solid and gaseous matter brought in the rain from each direction, I hope, on a future occasion, to find time to turn my attention to.

Rev. H. Lloyd read an extract from a letter from Edward W. Chetwode, Esq., describing a remarkable lunar halo and paraselene, seen in the Queen's County, on the night of the 21st of May.

“ I send a rough sketch of what struck me last night as a most beautiful and uncommon appearance, seen from our hall-door at twelve o'clock : the moon, with cruciform rays, surrounded by a halo ; two bright spots *in directum* with the horizontal arm of the cross, on the periphery of the halo ; a crescent light, not quite so intense as the horizontal spots, also on the periphery, *in directum* with the perpendicular axis of the cross ; and at a considerable distance above it (perhaps the distance of halo-radius) another much larger crescent, looking as if it were the base of another halo circle. The sky had a good many of those electric sweepings of light through it at the time. No doubt there was a fourth bright spot on the halo, but it was hid by a dense mass of trees. The two horizontal spots, which were very bright, had decided rainbow colours, strongly marked.”

The second figure in the lithographic plate at the end of the part represents the phenomenon described by Mr. Chetwode.

The phenomenon was likewise seen in the neighbourhood of Dublin, although not in so developed a form. The following are the notes of its appearance, as observed at Sandy-Cove, by Digby Starkey, Esq.

“ Ten minutes after eleven, P.M. Wind N.W. Mist across the sky to the North, East, and South, in striæ, as represented above. The line passing through the moon, and the eastern and western mock moons, dipped a little to the